

Statement of Martin Sbriglio  
before the  
Human Services Committee  
March 5, 2013  
Senate Bill 1025

Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Abercrombie and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Systems, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for over 63 years. I am offering comments today in strong support of Senate Bill 1025, ***An Act Concerning Advance Payments to Nursing Facilities for Uncompensated Care.***

Ironically, I want to note that I appeared before this very committee right about one year ago at your public hearing on a very similar bill. I appeared before you the year prior to that at about this same time, again on a similar bill. The only thing that has remained consistent is that nothing has been done to address this problem.

I asked you in prior years to help our industry on the issue of reimbursing for the so-called “pending” cases in Medicaid. These are the cases where we provide care to an indigent resident while their application is being processed for Medicaid. Until an approval occurs, we do not see a dime from the state.

SB 1025 would permit DSS to pay a portion of the costs of care when an application for Medicaid is pending. We need this—I can tell you of case after case where we have incurred hundreds of thousands of dollars in care but have not seen any reimbursement from the state. This just is not fair.

We are assessed a provider tax. We pay it—it goes to the state's General Fund but we then see nothing come back on the cases where Medicaid application processing has not been completed. I've had to go the bank and get short-term loans to cover the cost of these cases. Senate Bill 1025 gives us relief in respect to the provider tax and the interest we pay for these bank loans.

I would urge you to support the approach embodied in Senate Bill 1025. If you do so, it will get us half of the reimbursements we are entitled to. That, in turn, will better enable us to concentrate on our core mission of providing consistent, high-quality care to our residents and frail elderly.

Thank you.